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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/827,994	04/06/2001	Niakam Kazemi	361	5195

2292 7590 03/29/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAO H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

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DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/827,994

Applicant(s)
Kazemi

Examiner
Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 17, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 12-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Planas et al. (US Patent No. 6,112,015) in view of Tezuka et al. (US Patent No. 6,018,769).

Regarding claim 12, Planas discloses a network, a system for managing defective module information, comprising: a defect information management application program installed on said workstations (see 8, lines 26-65); and a graphical user interface generated by said defect information management application program and displayed on the display devices of said workstations; said graphical user interface including a symptoms information area permitting a user to log symptoms of a defect and corresponding module identification information to said database via said network (see col. 9, lines 6-59); however, Planas fails to explicitly teach a database operatively connected to said network; a plurality of workstations operatively connected to said network and including an input device and a display device (see col. 6, lines 18-67)

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Tezuka teaches a database operatively connected to said network; a plurality of workstations operatively connected to said network and including an input device and a display device (see col. 5- 6, lines 1-67). It would have been obvious to one of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a database operatively connected to said network; a plurality of workstations operatively connected to said network and including an input device and a display device as taught by Tezuka to the network management GUI of Planas in order to provide an improved network management GUI of telecommunication networks.

Regarding claims 13, Planas discloses wherein said symptoms information area includes a symptom category area and a symptoms area permitting the user to log symptom categories and symptoms to said database via said network, said defect information management application program presenting, a list of available symptoms associated with said symptom area depending upon the symptom category entered in said symptom category area by the user (see col. 10, lines 26-63).

Regarding claim 14, Planas discloses wherein the symptoms information area includes a process step area permitting the user to associate defect symptoms to a corresponding process step particular control in conjunction with a user-controllable pointer within the graphical user interface (see col. 11, lines 4-67).

Regarding claim 15, Planas discloses wherein the symptoms information area includes a process area and a process step area permitting an operator to associate defect symptoms to a corresponding process and process step (see col. 12, lines 9-65).

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Regarding claim 16, Tezuka discloses input device permitting the user to identify a module; said graphical user interface permitting the user to view logged defect symptoms for the identified module; graphical user including a defects information area permitting the user to log defects for the identified module to said database via said network (see col. 15, lines 19-67).

Regarding claim 17, Tezuka discloses wherein said defects information area includes a defects category area and a defects area permitting the user to log defect categories and defects to said database via said network, said defect information management application program generating a list of available defects associated with said defects area depending upon the defects category entered in said defects category area by the user (see col. 17-18, lines 1-67).

Regarding claim 18 and 19, Planas discloses wherein the defects information area includes a process step area permitting the user to associate defects to a corresponding process step; and wherein the defects information area includes a process area and a process step area permitting an operator to associate defects to a corresponding process and process step (see col. 14, lines 19-62).

Regarding claim 20 and 21, Tezuka discloses said input device permitting the user to identify a module; said graphical user interface permitting the user to view logged defect symptoms and defects for the identified module; graphical user interface including an action information area permitting the user to log corrective actions for the identified module to said database via said network (see figures 3-6).

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As claims 22- 36 are analyzed as previously discussed with respected to claims 12-21 above.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-11 are allowable over the prior art of record.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
Applicant has claimed uniquely distinct features in the instant invention which are not found in the prior art either singularly or in combination. They are a system for managing defective module information, comprising: a network; a database operatively connected to said network; an operator workstation operatively connected to said network and including an operator input device and an operator display device, said operator workstation displaying an operator graphical user interface on said operator display device permitting an operator to log a symptom of a defect and corresponding module identification information to said database via said network; a troubleshooter workstation operatively connected to said network and including a troubleshooter input device and a troubleshooter display device, said troubleshooter workstation displaying, a troubleshooter graphical user interface on said troubleshooter display device permitting a troubleshooter to view the logged symptom for an identified module and log a defect to said database via said network; a reworker workstation operatively connected to said network and including a reworker input device and a reworker display device, said reworker workstation displaying a reworker graphical user interface on said reworker display device permitting) a reworker to view the logged symptom and defect for the identified module and log an action to

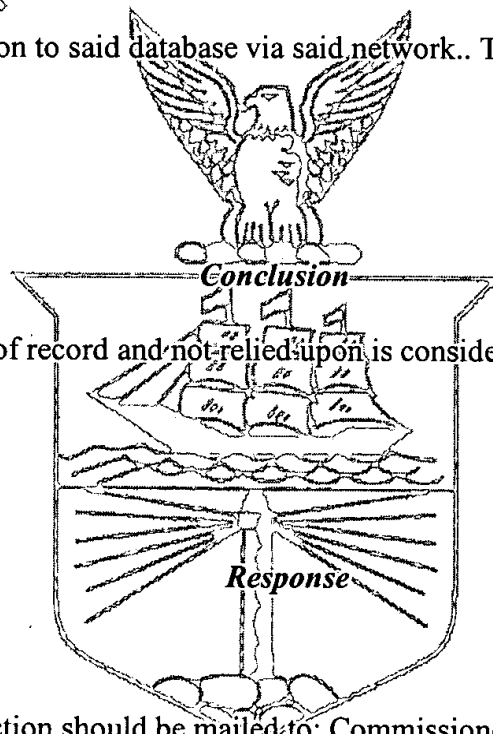
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said database via said network; and an inspector workstation operatively connected to said network and including an inspector input device and an inspector display device,, said inspector workstation displaying an inspector graphical user interface on said inspector display device permitting an inspector to view the logged symptom, defect, and action for the identified module and log feedback information to said database via said network.. These features are not found or suggested in the prior art.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (PTO-892).

6. Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. If applicant desires to fax a response, (703) 308-9051 may be used for formal communications or (703) 305-9724 for informal or draft communications.

Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. For after final responses, please label "AFTER FINAL" or "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE" on the document.



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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA. Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Inquires

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Cabece, can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax number for this group is (703) 308-6606.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

March 21, 2004